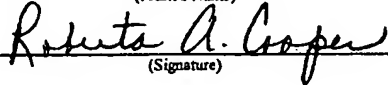




Atty. Dkt. No. 039153-5003 (G0167)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Xiang, Qi  
Title: SILICON BUFFERED  
SHALLOW TRENCH  
ISOLATION  
Appl. No.: 10/755,746  
Filing Date: 01/12/2004  
Examiner: David S. Blum  
Art Unit: 2813

<b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</b> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
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Roberta A. Cooper	
(Printed Name)	
	
(Signature)	

Confirmation No: 9599

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated August 21, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: